

Testimony for Public Hearing

Committee on Health Policy

October 3, 2018

Joan L. Roberts

11031 Hwy M-28

Watton, Michigan 49970

H.B. No. 5776 Committee on Health Policy – A bill to amend 1978 PA 368, entitled “Public health code.”

Good Afternoon Health Policy Committee Members. My name is Joan L. Roberts. I am a veteran, a returning college student (majoring in paralegal and criminal justice) and founder of Family Rescue League. I advocate for vulnerable patient-victims of manufactured memory therapy, and victims of the victim; i.e., those falsely accused of child sexual abuse based on memory theories and techniques. I contend that memory theories and techniques have proven themselves a psychologically controlling form of human trafficking.

Family Rescue League’s goal (Helping families recover from recovered memory therapy) is two-fold: (1) assist victimized individuals and families [at the hands of misguided and sorely regulated counselors] and (2) recommend legislative policy changes to address problematic theories and techniques resulting in misdiagnoses.

Misdiagnoses, present in past case studies, are surely a provable lead-in to drug addiction and ensuing medical fraud. Theories are not to be lauded as viable billing codes. They are also problematic in regard to patient abuse and wrongful convictions, all abuses of the unwitting

judicial system. HB 5776 could be expanded to prevent this in part through mandated consent forms specific to mental health counseling.

I applaud the devoted work on counseling bills; however, poor regulations in counseling are like a sieve. If the bill is not tie-barred with other related bills the effect may be less than desired. There is continued potential for tragic abuse upon victimized patients at one sieve hole leading yet to another, as soon-to-be victimized, imaginary perpetrators become themselves victims. Counseling theories without ground will continue abuse of the entire judicial process.

Coerced children, at the hands of under-regulated counselors free to evaluate based on theories, and vulnerable adults, victimized at the hands of counselor-theorists [trained in questionable memory and regressive therapy techniques] become victims of emotional distress and mental harm at the tax payers' expense. Mandated consent forms laying out a theory's pros and cons, are essential to halt the mental and emotional harm of the vulnerable.

HB 5776 opens the door to multiple corrections of abuse of power within a very privileged and sorely regulated profession. Exonerations, based solely on decades-waiting admittance from now grown children explaining their psychologically controlled circumstances, [at the hands of theorist-counselors] are proof-in-the-pudding.

Many innocent persons have spent years behind bars due to theories and counseling techniques. Theories and techniques not meeting scientific testing, are inadmissible in court, and are known to create false memories via suggestion, coercion, intimidation and manipulation, of the vulnerable; these should be barred.

It is disconcerting that HB 5776 includes language supporting theory and technique usage yet is void a mandatory consent form requirement. The consent form should set out explicit

details of the theory or technique to be used, along with any potential results. This should be signed by the patient or the minor parent and immediately entered into a protected data base.

HB 5776 should include language for mandatory consent forms, and address state funding issues per theories and techniques. Surely the populace should not pay for theories known to destroy families and wrongfully convict.

It is past time to stop the three decades of mental harm bestowed upon the most vulnerable in our society.

I would like to thank the Health Committee for addressing counseling concerns and reading my recommendations.

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Below I have itemized specifics:

1. On page 3 # 17 following "EMOTIONAL DISTRESS" consider adding something to the effect of 'through suggestion, coercion, intimidation, or manipulation as related to probing for past memories.'
2. On page 3 #18(viii) following "counseling plan" interject AND CONSENT FORM PROVIDED TO THE PATIENT AND AGREED UPON BY THE PATIENT IN ALL PRACTICES, PRIVATE OR UNDER CONTRACT BY THE STATE.
3. On page 4 #6 following "crisis intervention" ... VOID OF SUGGESTION OF PAST LIFE EVENTS, COERCION, INTIMIDATION, OR MANIPULATION OF THE PATIENT'S EXISTING BELIEFS.
4. Page 5 #4 following "electroconvulsive therapy" . . . OR ANY FORM OF COERCIVE THERAPY DOCUMENTED TO PSYCHOLOGICALLY CONTROL PATIENTS, INCLUSIVE OF REGRESSIVE, RECOVERED, EMERGE, OR ANY RELATED MEMORY ALTERING THERAPY WHICH RESULTS IN A MENTAL FORM OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING OR PRODUCES FALSE BELIEFS OF PAST ABUSES.
5. Page 6 # 1 "techniques" interject COUNSELING THEORIES WHICH MEET THE FRYE AND DAUBERT TESTS AND THAT OF WHICH ARE ADMISSIBLE IN CRIMINAL AND CIVIL COURTS . . . and following "ethics" COUNSELING TECHNIQUES AND COUNSELING PHILOSOPHY WHICH IS NOT BASED ON 'VOTES' PER ACCEPTANCE INTO THE DSM [FOR THE PURPOSE OF BILL CODING] BY MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATIONS AS TO VALIDITY OR CREDIBILITY THEREBY ENLISTING STATE FUNDING . . .
6. Page 5 #3 "DIAGNOSIS" BASED ON SCIENTIFICALLY SUPPORTED FACTS BEING THOSE THAT DO NOT PRODUCE POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER RESULTING IN EXCESSIVE THERAPISTS' REFERRALS AND MEDICAL TREATMENTS THAT WERE NON- EXISTING PROBLEMS WITH THE PATIENT PRIOR TO THERAPY, AND ONLY RECOGNIZED DIAGNOSES NON-INCLUSIVE OF 'BODY MEMORIES' OF PAST ABUSE OR ANY OTHER DIAGNOSES WHICH RESULT IN EXCESSIVE FRAUD OF STATE FUNDING. . .